



Great Law
of Peace in
Voting Booth

INDIAN VOICES

OUR 34TH YEAR

MULTI-CULTURAL NEWS GLOBAL NETWORK

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Love Letter to Democracy in America

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Indian Voices Special Election Issue 2020 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Why I Love America Anyway

by Hektor David Esparza

Democracy in America is worth fighting for. Peace and justice in America are worth striving for. Even with a legacy that includes slavery and genocide – and other harms to Indigenous Peoples and Peoples of Color – America is still a wonderful idea, place, reality. Native Americans and a great many Peoples of Color are part of the horrifying and awe-inspiring story that is the past 400 years of humanity in the Americas. And numbered among their remnant, the survivors of genocidal efforts, of abuse, oppression and exploitation, imprisonment and other sundry atrocities, are people who have overcome hell on earth to boldly live out their lives, blessing this country as well as the rest of the world, with innumerable creative, artistic, and technological wonders.



At this end of that 400-year epoch the native peoples of Turtle Island along with a host of Peoples of Color from many Nations are revealed as the heroes of their own stories. So much so that this world is truly a better, more interesting place in more ways than we could possibly list.

Did you see how many other countries joined us in solidarity against police violence this past summer? They know about all the terrible things our country has done and they love us anyway.

Too much of the history of the United States is colored by unconscionable acts perpetrated against these very peoples that have helped make this country the birthplace of so many awesome ideas, artforms, institutions.

They love us because of all we have given to the world: rock 'n' roll, jazz, rap, basketball, hamburgers, chocolate chip cookies, video games ... Baseball, skateboarding ... Superman as well as Batman. You get the idea. We rock and everyone knows this. They forgive us for the sins of our past and the sins of our leaders. What would the world look like without America? Without Chuck D, Willie

Nelson, Beyonce, and Hollywood?

I believe it was the mix of many cultures under a free and democratic rule that gave rise to all of this.

We reject the idea that America is so broken and racist that all must be torn down and replaced with God knows what. The Six Nation Iroquois Confederation and The Great Law of Peace were integral to forming the U.S. Constitution. Indigenous peoples contributed democratic ideals to

America at its inception and we continue to have stake in a functioning, legitimate democracy today. Native Americans, and Peoples of Color, hold public office, are producers, actors, directors, musicians, editors, scientists. A great and diverse many of us are living amazing lives. Some of us have overcome heartbreaking tragedies to do so. I know I have.

Death to America? If you're chanting this then I invite you to take that noise straight to the devil. I want to see America become a more just and true democracy. Not sent into oblivion by division, hatred, fear, cruelty.

Indian Voices is a multi-cultural media organization within a multi-cultural nation. We believe diversity of perspective is as important as diversity of skin color. It is what makes America wonderful.

No single perspective, school of thought, or philosophy can or should dominate ... even if it offers many strong ideas. There must be room for other ways of seeing the world ... that is, unless you favor totalitarianism. We reject totalitarianism from the Right as well as from the Left. No one people have an exclusive on being

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SEE **Why I Love America**, page 2

From Devastation Emerges New Voices and Strategies for the Kumeyaay Nation

by Tom Holm, Executive Director, Kumeyaay Heritage Preservation Council (KHPC)

Decades after John F. Kennedy denounced the Berlin Wall by declaring, "Ich bin ein Berliner" ("I am a Berliner"), Bobby Wallace of the Barona band of the Kumeyaay led a diverse group to the border wall south of San Diego that now dissects his homelands. On that day, Kumeyaay from families on both sides of the wall, and allies from all backgrounds, united to denounce the 30'-tall barricade that extends hundreds of mile through cemeteries, ceremonial sites, and villages that predate any European settlement by eons. Perhaps by design, machines that carve the 8'-deep trench supporting this behemoth pulverize all human remains and cultural items before anyone can discern them from sterile soil. All evidence of habitation and religious practices are annihilated then abandoned without ceremony. Those desecrated and discarded souls and artifacts are then replaced by steel, concrete, and anguish.

On the day Wallace led us to "The Wall," we were all Kumeyaay in spirit, solemnly witnessing further suppression of a complex and expansive society.

Legal appeals by the Kumeyaay Heritage Preservation Council (KHPC), the La Posta Band of Mission Indians, and others to pause construction long enough to protect ancient cemeteries and cultural resources have been rejected. Yet, from this devastation

has emerged new strategies and fresh voices providing hope for the Kumeyaay's future in protecting their past.

Established Kumeyaay leaders like Tribal Chairs Cody Martinez (Sycuan), Angela Elliott-Santos (Manzanita), and Erica Pinto (Jamul) have slated a Summit to further unite all 12 bands of the Kumeyaay Nation in their fight to protect ancestral sites along the wall, and at other locations threatened by development. Concurrently, La Posta Tribal Councilwoman Cynthia Parada orchestrates prayerful protests at the border wall with Wallace and many other youthful activists to raise awareness of injustices still plaguing the Kumeyaay and other Indigenous Peoples.



SEE **New Voices**, page 4

In this issue...

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| 1 Why I Love America
New Voices | 4 History San Diego Courts
and Tribes | 7 Peache Perspective
Vote & Faith Jamestown
Tribe | 11 CA Sec State on Election
Grid Alternatives |
| 2 Voices from Community
Tpai Warrior | 5 AG Workers Fight Virus | 8-9 World Beat Center | 14 Outstanding Indians |
| 3 IV Declaration of
Independence | 6 Bishop McKinney
Celebration | 10 400 Years After Slavery
Criminal Justice Reform | 16 BAPAC Get out Vote
Native Food Sovereignty |

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NEVER GIVE UP

“Think back to 1787. Who were ‘WE the people’? ... They certainly weren’t women ... they surely weren’t people held in human bondage. The genius of our Constitution is that over now more than 200 sometimes turbulent years that ‘we’ has expanded and expanded.” - **Ruth Bader Ginsburg**



Voices from the Community on Democracy

Strengthening Our Civic Backbone

If we had waited and relied upon our democratic institutions to solve our most vexing social problems then African Americans could still be in slavery. Democracy is important to the degree that people have autonomy over their lives in the things that impact us directly- especially for our most marginalized communities. It is a myth that we have a true democracy and that this is the best form of government. We don't have direct democracy. It is important to understand that the most of the social injustice in our society has not been resolved by the ballot box or elected officials. We still have homeless populations, people that go hungry every day, racial minorities that die at

the hands of law enforcement and folks that die from lack of healthcare. Yes our democratic institutions serve an important role in our society and yes we need to preserve them and improve upon them, too. We also still have not lived up to the founding democratic ideals of this country and our democratic rights must be used as extensions of our need and our ability to fight social injustice. It is also our duty and responsibility to not just use and rely on these democratic institutions and ideals, but to ensure that we fight for social justice every day and make sure that our most vexing social problems are being properly addressed. - **Dr. Darwin Fishman, Ph.D**

• Democracy does not exist unless we (the people) have the right to public knowledge

A Few Words from a Tpai Warrior

by Omar (Kumeyaay)

(Matum nñakur) (Sper e shmap uwiu) Strength and wisdom to all who are reading this.



My Mother, Aunt and Great Aunt full-blooded Kumeyaay.

As a descendent of some of the most fierce chiefs to ever walked Kumeyaay land. We have been here from the beginning. I say with my head held up high we cannot and will not be defeated. We are earth water and fire. We are the brave men and women from Kumeyaay Land.

This wall has been a blessing in disguise as Baja and San Diego come together as one, as it was once upon a

time.

Elders smile even though we are at war.

In between the madness I see a ray of sunshine as our ancestors bring us together at a very unique time. This strength and unity will keep our tribe together, as one's birdsongs bring love and joy to the soul of a generation of survivors! Yes survivors of genocide you are alive because you have a mission as a Native to complete. What a time for peace (even thou I love to fight) but peace feels good. A word to the wise. Let's check one another when gossip or hate towards our brothers and sisters occurs. Let's fight for a new generation of baby Tpai/tpai all singing as one As

Baja still has many issues poverty killings etc, I am still working hard to free my people from the beast of this system that brought us separation and made relatives strangers. Because yes they belong as well. A paper does not define them. They need us to speak up for them.

Never apologize for being Kumeyaay Kumiai Tipai Ipai .ey ahan May-ahai Omar the Hawk !

Why I Love America

Continued from page 1

wrong; no one people have an exclusive on being right. We refuse to vilify or deify any population. And yes, I am talking about White People. Ask me to despise anyone because of their skin color and I will also invite you to take that perspective where it belongs. I believe that any hate we send out toward any peoples will inevitably find its way back to our communities. Your mouth or fist may write the check, but it may be my sister, brother or mother who pays the price. Resist the darkside of the force. Hatred, vilification, condemnation poison those who use them all the way down to

their souls. We are far too beautiful to let that happen to us.

Yes, there are many reasons to despise America. But I believe there are more reasons to love it. In short, the United States of America, warts and all, is worth saving.

To America's great and many peoples we encourage you not to lose hope. We can and will rise to this incredibly momentous occasion. And we will overcome all with Love because it is infinitely stronger than hate.

America, this special edition of Indian Voices is our Love Letter to You.

Thanks for participating in our Democracy. See you all on the other side of the election.

and truth. No one person or institution has the right to fully determine for a citizen what is what. Even though Black people have not been able to receive the benefits of public knowledge and truth, we must never forget that our family members fought and died in several wars and civil rights actions that were predicated on maintaining this country's democracy. Those brave people of color fully knew that they would not acquire nor live long enough to benefit fully from that democracy, but they hoped their future family and race would eventually benefit from their sacrifice. We must continue to keep the hope alive for our future race that democracy will someday exist for all. In summary, we need our freedom in order to engage in our outcome. We must never forget what our

people did for us in the past. We must continue to keep our eyes towards securing our people's future. - **Ken Malbrough**

• We are promoting dictatorship if we are not constantly & consistently fighting for democracy. Our civil rights and civil liberties exist because we believe in the basic concepts and principles of democracy. It will only continue to exist as long as we continue to practice and fight for it. Democracy will only continue to exist if we hold our leaders and systems accountable to it. Anyone who seeks to control through promotion of violence, racism, discrimination and division through manipulation threatens our democracy. Anyone who seeks to have absolute power by force and by forsaking the rule of law is an enemy of our democracy. We can never stop

SEE **Voices of Democracy**, page 12



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The United States of America and its democratic government were formed in part as a response to the tyrannical rule of George III, King of England. Thomas Jefferson and The Committee of Five were tasked with drafting the Declaration of Independence, a document which is largely a list of charges, rebukes, and indictments against this king. It is fitting then that more than 200 years later, as a president with despotic tendencies, slouches toward kingship over this nation, that the Declaration of Independence is enlisted once again to challenge abuses of government power. We updated the monumental document and redirected its righteous indignation toward the current sitting president. We edited out the part where it describes Indians as merciless savages. America wasn't perfect then, and it's not perfect now. But this is still our nation and we must always aspire to making it a "more perfect union."

An Indian Voices Update of The Declaration Of Independence

When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for a Democracy to check itself before it wrecks itself... When said Democracy in a nation of diverse peoples finds itself bitterly divided, scolded and chided, neighbor stoking hatred against neighbor; when agents of its government betray their oaths to uphold the letter and spirit of democracy and instead with mal intent stoke fear among the people of one another, and promote untruths as alternative truths; when its diverse peoples become entrenched in perspectives which demonize those unlike them or not of their preferred party; when the outcome of the next most important exercise in its democracy, its election of a national leader, has been questioned by the seated leader even before it has transpired... in this course of human events in the experiment that is democracy in America, it becomes necessary that:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all people are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That, to secure these rights, governments are instituted among individuals, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That, whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the duty of the people to recall the ideals of a democracy to which our forebears were committed and to recommit ourselves to those selfsame ideals. We shall elect new members of government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness

But, when under a chief executive who frequently praises dictators and despots, and publicly commits a long train of abuses and outright falsehoods, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such representatives, and to provide new guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these states; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to vote out their present government representatives. The history of the current President of the United States is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over these states. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world:

He has refused his assent to laws the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his governors to pass laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other laws for the accommodation of the aide and assistance of large districts of people, unless those people would publicly show gratitude to him for merely attending to the duties of his office; taking the posture and adopting the tactics of tyrants.

He has dissolved norms and standards of

decency repeatedly. We oppose, with matriarchal firmness, his invasions on the rights of the people. Namely the rights to free assembly and to peaceful protest, and to a fair and free election.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be nominated or installed into office; supreme court justices and the present chief law enforcement officer, Attorney General William Barr who expressed his view, in no uncertain terms, in writing before being appointed, that a sitting president is NOT prosecutable for any crimes; and in effect is beyond the strictures of the Rule of Law; whereby the legislative powers, incapable of annihilation, and have returned to the people at large for their exercise; the state remaining in the meantime exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavored to prevent the population of these states; for that purpose obstructing the laws for naturalization of foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of business interests to despoil the waters, lands, and skies of this nation.

He has obstructed the administration of justice, by refusing his assent to standing laws, including using his occupancy of the White House in illegal political campaigning toward his re-election.

His enablers in the senate refused to allow witnesses at his impeachment trial, thereby denying the plaintiff which is Democracy itself, the right to present witnesses in support of its claims and charges; that said president stands credibly accused of committing treasonous acts, in service of the interests of foreign powers and taking precedence over our own national interests.

He has erected a multitude of new officers, and sent hither swarms of said officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, standing private mercenary forces, and has publicly given orders to white nationalist domestic terrorists, who received them enthusiastically, and without the consent of our legislatures.

He has affected to render the military independent of and superior to the civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws... and has abetted the institution of bounties on the heads of our foot soldiers by a foreign actor.

He was protected by a majority of his political party within the U.S. senate, by a mock trial, which barred witnesses, from punishment for any crimes.

He stands credibly accused of causing negligent homicides among the inhabitants of these states by virtue of his deliberate public mischaracterization of the threats posed to health and life by the novel corona virus, for his own misguided political aims. And by his lack of responsible leadership during the time of a global pandemic in which, on his watch, the United States has suffered greater numbers of infections, and deaths of its citizens, to this deadly virus than any other nation in the world.

For cutting off our cooperation with other nations of the world and their efforts to protect the lands, skies, and waters of the earth.

For diminishing our dignity and standing in the global community, and altering fundamentally the forms of our governments by his zeal to operate the powers of the executive branch unchecked by the legislative; And for exploiting the powers and influence of his office for his own political and financial gains at the expense of the physical, moral, and economic well-being of this nation's citizens.

He has abdicated the responsibilities of government here, by declaring supporters and office holders of his rival party to be out of his protection, and waging war against us.

He has divided our nation as no other president ever... and destroyed many of the lives of our people.

He is at this time openly communicating orders to law enforcement, as well as to mercenaries and domestic terrorist organizations to complete the works of death, desolation, and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of cruelty and perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the head of a civilized nation.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavored to bring terror on the inhabitants of our frontiers, those wishing to enter our nation fleeing war and hardships, by willfully separating young children from their parents, some never to be reunited due to both the various ineptitudes and the outright malice of the administration; and he has built walls through traditional lands and territories of the first nation's peoples of this great land.

In every stage of these oppressions, we have petitioned for redress, in the most humble terms. Our repeated petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

To this president's party we have appealed, in vain to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred, to disavow these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity...

We, therefore, the great and many peoples of the United States of America, assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the name, and by authority of the good people of these states, solemnly publish and declare, that we recommit ourselves to the ideals of democracy in America. To fix what is broken. To make more perfect what is lacking. And to passionately entreat of all America's great and many peoples, to unify under the ideal that democracy in America is a reality we will never forsake nor abandon.

And for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of all benevolent entities, universal and local, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.

Honoring the History of Between State Courts and Tribes of San Diego County

by Tom Lidot
Tonkawa Council of Elders

In 2020, the importance of understanding these challenges remains as relevant as they did 28 years ago. In the face of a pandemic and a challenged economy San Diego Courts remain committed to ensuring collaboration exists with local tribes and child welfare. This article is created to ensure the history of tribal tours was not lost and is the result of a tour for judges that was planned for March of 2020 but restructured to a virtual format due to COVID 19. For more information visit <https://www.home.tlpi.org/tribal-justice-collaborative>.

In San Diego, Juvenile Judge Napoleon Jones (1982-1994) was the first judge to recognize the standing of tribes and tribal representatives/advocates in child welfare cases with Indian children. After the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) passed in 1978 Indian service programs and tribal social service programs serving the needs of Native children and families began to assert the need for state and county child welfare workers to follow the provisions of ICWA. In response San Diego established a Tribal Liaison position in 1984 and an Indian Specialty Unit in 1992. Relationships were strengthened by tribal tours of the reservations so that judges and attorneys could better understand challenges faced by families when entering the child welfare system. A video covering the History of the of the Indian Specialty Unit in San Diego, California is available on YouTube. (see link at the end of this article)

This is an account of a time when county roads ended where tribal lands began. When the code of conduct and

social etiquette of back country living contrasted sharply from urban environments. This was a time when all addresses were PO Boxes and a social worker needed assistance from the tribe or someone familiar with the area to conduct a visit. When issues of child abuse were reported and the family lived on the reservation there were numerous challenges for the courts, child welfare, the family and child. It was at this time the Tribal Liaison of San Diego County's Health and Human Service Agency, in collaboration with Indian Child and Family Services, began taking judges, state marshals, attorneys, law enforcement, and social service directors on tours of the reservations so they would understand the hardships reservation families faced when they were part of the child welfare and court systems.

An Elder's Account of that Era:

"In those times, from the early 1980's to pre-Casino days in San Diego County, things were very different in Indian country. Almost all reservations are in the back country served by secondary and even tertiary roads. This means two lane roads or dirt roads led to the reservations. Many of the reservations are at elevations where winter brings rain, sleet and snow. In those days most of the roads were dirt or gravel on the reservation. Winter meant that a 4-wheel drive vehicle was necessary, and you could not leave the reservation until the weather cleared and the mud dried enough to get a vehicle to a paved road to go into town. There were times when I had to rent 4-wheel drive vehicles for staff so they could do their home visits during the winter months. In terms of families whose children

were in the child welfare system, getting to court in San Diego, and meeting the requirements of their family service plans was often-times a near impossible hardship. Travel times from the reservations to downtown San Diego could take anywhere from an hour to two- or three-hours round trip. If the parents didn't have a vehicle and they had to take the bus, a trip to downtown could take the whole day. There were few buses scheduled to rural areas and sometimes only ran once or twice a day.

Even though the ICWA is quite specific in that services should be culturally appropriate and accessible

within acceptable travel times, services were still ordered in the urban areas. The burden of trying to manage accessing the services was left up to the parents and tribal social workers who were trying to help the parents."

From the inception of the tours, attitudes changed. Court dates and times were changed to accommodate travel time, drug testing, counseling and other services could be provided by qualified staff of the Indian Health clinics. Over time these changes resulted in more reasonable service plans for parents and caregivers and more interaction between tribes, child welfare, and state courts.

Lorena Gonzalez Lead Author of Nation's First Legislative Package to Protect Agricultural Workers Against the Corona Virus

Newsome signs Legislation For Farmwoer COVID-19 Relief Package

SACRAMENTO CA – Governor Gavin Newsome signed AB2043 and AB2165, two key pieces of California Farmwoer COVID-19 Relief Bill. Assembly member and Chair of the Assembly Agriculture Committee Robert Rivas (D-Holister) and Assembly member E Edurrado Garcia (D-Coachella), Assembly member Lorena Gonzalez (D-San Diego) was also the lead author of AB2043. It is the Nation's first legislative package to protect Agricultural Workers against the Corona Virus. The bill had broad bi-partisan support as it passed the Legislature in August.

"This is a major victory for California's most vulnerable essential workers...Farmworkers. I am grateful to the governor for his signature on AB 2043 and AB 2165, which will help protect agriculture communities against

the spread of COVID-19 and ensure workers have access to critical workplace safety information and essential state services urging the pandemic. I am proud to have worked with such a broad coalition of supporters to make this a reality. We brought everyone to the table, including Republicans, Democrats, growers, farmworkers, advocates, state agencies an industry representatives to craft his prudent lifesaving package of legislation. According to recent studies, agriculture workers in Monterey County are three times more likely to contract the virus than the general population. Latinos in the County account for 93 percent of COVID c-19 cases, while only representing 61 percent of the population. Latino deaths have quintupled since May because of their status as "unsung essential workers"

Pete Maturano, Aguracultrel Division Director, UFCW Local 5 applauded the victory on behalf of UFCW members.

New Voices

Continued from page 1

Additionally, KHPC is contemplating alliances with conservation groups like the Center For Biological Diversity, and the Sierra Club, both of which also took legal steps to delay border wall construction. In the case of the Sierra Club, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in their favor that President Trump's use of emergency powers to

divert \$3.6 billion in military construction funds for the border wall was unlawful, thus requiring construction near El Centro to cease immediately. KHPC may collaborate with such groups to efficiently advocate for the protection of both natural and cultural resources held precious by the Kumeyaay.

With solidarity, established and emerging leadership, powerful alliances and more, additional voices may proclaim, "I am a Kumeyaay" in spirit, and join in their fight to preserve and renew one of the world's oldest and most remarkable cultures.



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VOTE LIKE YOUR RIGHTS DEPEND ON IT.

When Is The Time - Now Is The Time!



by Dr. Willie P. Blair,
State President of
BAPAC

“Now is the Time”, thundered the strong, clear voice of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., upon being asked when would be the time that Black people should expect to receive their freedom and racial justice that late summer day in 1963 during the March on Washington.

“Now is the time to lift our nation from the quicksands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood. Now is the time to get rid of racial injustice in America, now is the time!” Oh, did we say these words were echoed by world’s preeminent Civil Rights leader which took place on August 28, 1963 during that most historic moment?

It is now October 2020, over 52 years later and there are still millions upon millions of devotees of the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s and beyond, who are still saying, Now Is The Time! Oh yes, the slogans might be different. A half century ago the slogans were “We Shall Overcome, I’m Black and I’m Proud, I Am Somebody!” And now the slogans of 2020 are erringly similar, “Black Lives

Matter, Freedom, Justice and Equality For All, and Ain’t No Stopping Us Now!”

But as in the 1950,s when we prematurely lost the lives of Emmett Till, Dr. King, Medgar Evers, Malcolm X, the three slain Civil Rights workers, Goodman, Shwerner and Chaney, the three little Black girls who lost their lives at the 16th Avenue Baptist Church bombing, and many others; the 21st century has had its similar tragic losses by the names of Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, Breonna Taylor, to name just a few. In 1963 we lived under a system best described as Jim Crow. Here in the 21st century, the system of racial inequity and injustice is similarly known as the “The New Jim Crow” which is best illustrated in her best selling book “The New Jim Crow” by Black aspiring author Michelle Alexander.

But moving forward, it is now up to all of the men and women of good will, to once again declare that “Now Is The Time!” But it is also, Now Is The Time, for these following steps to take place to lift the Black Community up to where it rightfully belongs:

1. Every Black Man and Woman who is eligible to vote, should register to vote, get informed about what they are voting for, and then vote without fail!

2. Get a first class education! Starting with graduating from high school. And

continuing that education through community college, perhaps a trade or vocational training school, or attend a four year college institution of higher learning.

3. Save a reasonable portion of your earned wages and income. And pay your taxes on time!

4. Control your debt and spending. Especially credit cards and excessive shopping. You also don’t have to buy an expensive car or take an exotic vacation every other year!

5. Purchase a House! As soon as you are financially able! Owning a home is more than just a place where you and your family live, it is a life-long business investment!

6. Promote good solid health for you and your family. Especially preventive health!

7. Support Black businesses! Make your own community wealthy and prosperous!

8. Love your family! And take care of your children until they can become self-sufficient on their own!

9. Only join organizations or causes that have as their core mission to strengthen and lift up the “Beloved Community to where it rightfully belongs!”

10. Be good to yourself! Let no one rob you of your joy! Rise up to your greatest calling!

And when do you do these above 10 actions? “Now is the time!”



“That hand is not the color of yours, but if I prick it, the blood will flow, and I shall feel pain. The blood is of the same color as yours. God made me, and I am a man.” -Chief Standing Bear, Ponca

Chief Standing Bear stood in the U.S. Circuit Courtroom in Omaha, Nebraska [NE], on May 2, 1879, before Judge Elmer S. Dundy. His courtroom appearance was the first time an Indian addressed a judge in a court of law. Standing Bear sought to prove that he, too, was a citizen of the U.S. and had rights under the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

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Presidential General Election | November 3, 2020



The San Diego County Registrar of Voters is reminding you to Vote Safer at Home. All active registered voters will receive a ballot in the mail for the presidential election.

Ballots have already started going out in the mail. Once you receive yours - don't delay! -Make voting decisions and complete your ballot in the comfort and safety of your home. Seal your ballot in your postage paid envelope, sign it, date it, and return it by mail promptly so it is received before Election Day. Sign your name just like it appears on your driver's license or identification card.

You can now track your mail ballot every step of the way by signing up for “Where's My Ballot?”. Sign up at sdvote.com.

What if you need to vote in person?

The Registrar's office urges you to vote early:

- 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday at the Registrar's office.
- 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 31 through Monday, Nov. 2 at your assigned polling place or the Registrar's office.

The Registrar's Office and polling places will be open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day, Nov. 3.

If you decide to vote in person, be sure to wear a face mask or covering, bring your mail ballot with you and prepare for long lines. There will be fewer polling places, so your location has most likely changed. You can find your polling place listed on the back of your sample ballot pamphlet or you can look it up at sdvote.com.

The Registrar especially encourages older adults and people with underlying medical conditions to avoid long lines and crowded polling places by voting early.

For more information call 858-565-5800 or toll-free at (800) 696-0136.

Learn more at sdvote.com



“We’ve Come This Far By Faith”

58th Year Celebration
September 2020

The Pastorate of Bishop George D. McKinney, Founding Pastor
St. Stephen’s Cathedral Church of
God in Christ

by Michael Adkins

The theme song, “We’ve Come This Far by Faith”, rang out at the St. Stephen’s Cathedral Church of God in Christ (COGIC), at the start of each virtual Sunday Morning Service in the month of September 2020 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. After all, St. Stephen’s was celebrating 58 years of ministry and pastoral leadership. Bishop George D. McKinney, along with his late wife, Dr. Jean C. McKinney, founded the ministry of reconciliation, redemption and renewal which commenced the first Sunday, September 2, 1962. Grounded in the Word of God, McKinney’s message of compassion, love for God, and love for your neighbor, as defined by the Holy Bible, have been preached in the pulpit for nearly six decades. Under Bishop McKinney’s storied leadership and his unwavering commitment and faith in God, he has touched countless lives, in the thousands, not just in the



Southeastern community in the City of San Diego where he pastors, but his message of hope has extended to distant shores and lands around the world.

This journey of faith for the esteemed Senior Pastor did not begin 58 years ago but, rather, was birthed 88 years ago in his native state of Arkansas. Born to parents who were sharecroppers, George Dallas McKinney, followed in the footsteps of his father, who was a pastor of a local congregation in Jonesboro, Arkansas. He answered the call from God to enter ministry at the youthful age of 15. McKinney, who eventually married his late wife, Jean, in Ohio, would eventually move his young family from Toledo, Ohio, to San Diego, California, where he united with the then, Jackson Memorial Church of God in Christ, Pastored by Bishop J. A. Blake, Sr., now known as the Fountain of Life Church of God in Christ.

After serving for a period of time at Jackson Memorial, Elder George Dallas McKinney began his pastoral ministry at St. Stephen’s. Just barely 30 years old when he started the ministry, he was young but prepared. Before venturing to California, having completed his undergraduate studies at Arkansas AM&N College, now University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, Arkansas, McKinney would also earn his Master’s

Derrick Broze Keeping Indigenous Journalism Alive

“If we actually hope to achieve our goals as activists and/or anarchists, we must take actionable steps in our lives. We cannot focus exclusively on social media activism or wait for some “leader” to come along and save the day. Every one of us must take responsibility for our thoughts, words, and actions. We must take responsibility for our own healing.”

Derrick Broze is a freelance investigative journalist, documentary film maker, author, and public speaker seeking to expose corruption, find solutions to the problems that affect all of humanity, and promote localization and decentralization. Derrick is a Houstonian who has survived



depression, drug addiction, and prison. Since 2010, he has dedicated his life to improving the City of Houston and the world at large, as an activist, journalist, and radio show host. In 2019, Derrick joined the race for Mayor of Houston. As a Mayoral Candidate, Derrick called for giving away the power of the Mayor of Houston and amplifying the voices of Houstonians. As of 2020 he is the author of 5

books and writer of 5 documentaries.

To learn more about Derrick Broze read his journey. You can find Derrick’s video reports on The Conscious Resistance or hear him on Free Thinker Radio on 90.1 KPFT Houston.

“We care about this institution more than our individual egos and we are all devoted to keeping the Supreme Court in the place that it is, as a co-equal third branch of government and I think a model for the world in the collegiality and independence of judges.”

– Ruth Bader Ginsburg

in Philosophy of Christianity at The Graduate School of Theology, Oberlin College, in Ohio. Bishop McKinney, in his thirst and pursuit of academia, earned a Doctor of Theology (PhD) degree from the California Graduate School of Theology, Glendale, California.

Editor’s note: If you would like to learn more about the St. Stephen’s experience and their witness to the community please visit their website: www.ststephenscogic.org. Additionally, you can watch their services, which are currently being held virtually due to the pandemic, by clicking a link on their website. You may also view their service via their Facebook page.



Native American Artist

TR Whitefox

Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma

760-638-0580

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Roll Number: K04908

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PERSPECTIVE from PEACHE

Photos Rochelle Porter



"THE DIVIDED STATE OF AMERICA"

How long are WE THE PEOPLE willing to allow AMERICA to be divided ... while we have dedicated doctors, health care and other vital essential workers putting their lives on the line for us every day? They need our support, appreciation and assurance that they are not wasting their time. Think about it, when this election is over will they feel the love from the community? Have we lived up to the visionary



spreading across America by Covid-19. We have limited time to be publicly lied to by self-serving policy makers who care less about our families and community.

in accord with the worldview of the Great Kumeyaay Nation while on their sacred land.



teaching of John Lewis? "Now we have black and white elected officials working together. Today, we have gone beyond just passing laws. Now we have to create a sense that we are one community, one family. Really, we are the American family."

As we evolve from our colonized mindset we will be able to achieve our ultimate goal of unity. We have no idea how long we will be living with the poison

What an enormous opportunity to coactively evolve and be



Hear the words of Ruth Bader Ginsburg

"Let us never forget that government is ourselves and not an alien power over us. The ultimate rulers of our democracy are not a President and senators and congressmen and government officials, but the voters of this country."

Not until we break out of our colonized affiliation can we stop all the hate, lies, killings and depravity.

I pray to live long enough to actually see our country 'UNITED'.
UNITED WE STAND DIVIDED WE FALL APART. VOTE!!!

Vote and Faith Message from Trubal Council Chair/CEO W. Ron Allen Jamestown S'Kallam Tribe

Getting Jamestown S'Kallam Citizens

I hope you are all safe and healthy in this crazy time we are experiencing due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are all doing everything we can to get the virus under control waiting patiently for vaccines to be made to get back to normal life ways. First and foremost, as you read this, we'll be 30 days or so to elections on November 3rd for National, State and Local and our Tribal elections. I can't underscore more the importance of voting. I want to encourage everyone to have faith in our American spirit and

political system.

I am not going to spend a lot of time on my bias against President Trump as I suspect we have Tribal citizens who support him. But, I will emphasize the importance of voting for those who we believe will lead to the best interest of our country, as well as state and Tribe. Leadership is about integrity, honesty, and trust.

We must believe in the system and have faith in strong steady leadership to guide our collective effort to have confidence for our future 7 generations. Our Jamestown community has enjoyed a long history of a strong stable and

constant leadership committed to advancing Our Self-Governance and Self Reliance vision and goals. We must look to our past and future leadership with confidence and trust.

I am excited for our new rising leaders such as Loni Greninger and Rochelle Blankenship and am appreciative that since they do have opponents you have confidence in their leadership and capabilities and young visions.

I will note that Theresa Lehman has been steady and consistent in her active role as your current Tribal Treasurer. No one has been more diligent in attending our Tribal activities and committee meetings as a Council observer than her.

I appreciate the interest of Jessica Johnson and have watched her from childhood under the watchful eye of her mother Sandy a former Council Vice-Chair. Jessica has become interested in Tribal affairs and represents another generation interested in our Tribe's future.

Tribal governance has become much more complicated today than when we started back in 1981, but that is because of our steady success and vision of becoming independent again consistent

with who we are as 'Strong Peoples'

Regardless of who you support at all levels of our family of American governments from National, State, Local or Tribal you must vote! Remember if you don't vote, you voted for the outcome of those who did.

For those of you who are the readers of our history, you know our American society have experience many politically challenging times and yet faith in the vision and fundamental principals of our U.S. Constitution and Tribes are well. We have a balance of power and control over our affairs. We must have faith that not only will we prevail over this devastating impact from Covid-19 virus, but our political and economic uncertainty as well. Voting on November 3rd will be a clear and definitive step going into 2021.

Meanwhile, I urge you all to stay safe, practice good hygiene, wear masks in public and have faith as we emerge from from this historic world-wide crisis. It is not clear if there will be a second wave or how long into the winter or into 2021 this pandemic will last, but these good health measures will enable us to prevail. Sincerely, W. Ron Allen



C.D. Ma.Teresa Quintana M.

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¡¡¡PREVIA CITA!!!

The peaceful transition of power doesn't rest on a well-defined set of rules. Instead, it depends on politicians being willing to admit they lost.

Election Anxiety

by Berenice Rodriguez

Many of us have a genuine concern about the outcome of the election. There is so much at stake and most of us have not lived through an election more important than this one. I've never been so overwhelmed by a president than I am now. I remember previous presidents having personal scandals, going into war, making signature moments like Obama dropping the mic at the last White House Correspondents' Dinner, and I never imagined having a president that would say anything to get daily attention. I remember early in his presidency some of my colleagues and I got to the point we agreed to stop saying his name for weeks.

It's been quite an intense year and much of it has affected not only our country but the world; from the pandemic and its repercussions to the Black Lives Matter protests to the provoked civil violence and unrest to natural disasters. All of these have created serious dialogues amongst our family, work, school and friends. Now the election has taken over our phone calls,

dinner tables, text messages and so on. It's all over every media platform and has polarized and divided the country. Many of us are concerned about the



reaction the people, the country's citizens and the current administration will have after the results of the election. How far will tensions take us?

I have only lived 31 years but something from global history tells me this election is going into the history books and so will possible unfortunate aftermath events. I'm nervous about it but it feels like we're living through a new frequency, a new time where hardship has to come before the better days. It feels like if we work through this mud, it will all be worth it and a lotus flower will eventually bloom. For those who are also going through changes in

emotions I'd like to offer some advice I've come upon. During these next weeks, take breaks from your phone, radio and television. When having conversations with friends of the opposing view, take time to just listen instead of going straight to rebutting. Use indigenous ways to find forgiveness and release tensions with your kin. Do your research and find the facts about the policies that affect you and your loved ones; know your rights, know your local government candidates. Find positive outlets as refuge to relieve your anxiety: go

for walks, spend time with your family and children, take more time with your pets, meditate, exercise, volunteer, and take care of your health. If you're a person who likes to feel like you're doing something, take time to prepare your community for potential unrest; how will you help one another? Now is also a great time to immerse yourself in your spiritual practice and practice the values guidelines that have been set before us.

Let's not let anxiety and stress affect our physical and mental wellbeing. Let's do our part, go out and vote, take care of one another and find faith and strength in our spiritual practice.

WORLD BEAT CENTER

A. Philip Randolph, The Most Dangerous Negro In America

by Makeda Cheatom with excerpts from Girl Trek's Black History Bootcamp

I didn't realize how powerful A. Philip Randolph was. He was the strategic organizer for the Black movement of social



justice. As I sit here tired and sometimes in doubt about the hard work over the years that I struggled in most of my life I look back at A. Philip Randolph, James Baldwin, Fanny Lou Hammer, and other unsung heroes, I realize that my role is like a grain of sand to their great works. We really have to educate our children about these great leaders that are not represented in the dominant culture's history books. You have to have cultural centers, like WorldBeat Center, libraries and walks like the Black History Bootcamp, a 21 day walking meditation for daily resistance where you learn about the pivotal moments from some of the most powerful movements in Black history.

A. Philip Randolph (April 15, 1889 – May 16, 1979) was arrested in the streets for treason. He was born 24 years after the American Civil War and slavery ended. He grew up in the south during the time of lynchings. Randolph was a young man demanding rights for Black workers – or else. W.E.B. Du Bois and Booker T. Washington agreed on one thing: They could not stand the "new radical negroes" like A. Philip Randolph! He was a socialist. A rabble-rouser. A labor man. They called him every name in the book. Today, we call him the single, most impactful social, political, and economic activist in Black history.

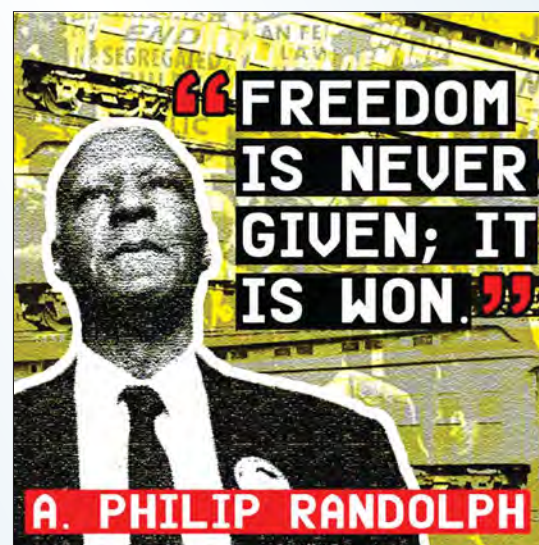
He unionized Black workers. Leveraged that power to walk into the Oval Office and force President Roosevelt – by the threat of mass demonstration – to

desegregate the federal government and hire Black people, effective immediately. Fair Employment Act – Randolph won a million new jobs for Black people. The middle class was created. Then, Randolph stood toe-to-toe with Truman and audaciously told him that Black people would NOT fight in his war unless he desegregated the military. Truman hated Randolph. Didn't matter. Executive Order 9981 abolished segregation in the armed forces.

Then it happened: the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. It was the largest political

demonstration in American history. A. Philip Randolph was the originator, strategist, and chief spokesperson. The demonstration was intent on two demands from Kennedy, then Johnson – The Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. He won both.

There would be no Martin Luther King, Jr. without A. Philip Randolph. While Dr.



King raised the moral consciousness of a nation, Randolph secured the bag – a decisive political and economic defeat against American injustice. It's no wonder a U.S. Attorney General called him "the most dangerous negro in America."

"Salvation for a race, nation or class must come from within. Freedom is never granted; it is won. Justice is never given; it is exacted." - A. Philip Randolph

Feeding of Mother Earth

by Luis Miguel Oluwo Ifa Oma

In the traditional belief systems of Ifa there is a deep connection with the planet earth. We have traditional stories that give us insight into planetary consciousness and its dialogue with human beings. Last year on December of 2019. The earth warned us of the pandemic. And it was going to alter the way we do things in society. Once a year we give back to mother earth and give her several offerings. The babalawo has the faculty and permission from Olodumare (divine source) to do a ceremony of this magnitude. I will share with you one of our traditional stories that sheds light on the origins of this practice. Death would complain because it did not know what to do with the bodies once they transitioned to the ancestral realm. At the same rate, the earth would complain because living species would walk all over mother earth without giving her respect. She would give of her produce without getting anything back.

One day death interacted with the mother earth and made a covenant.

Mother earth agreed only under certain conditions. As long as everyone gave her what humans consume and eat. Death would respect all living species and assure that they fulfill their destiny.

Whatever the earth gives us we must give it back to her. Mother earth is the daughter of Olodumare (divine source) her name is Ile Oguere. This deity came into existence without doing an offering. This is why humans abuse mother nature and this ceremony picture above is our way to give mother earth respect. Global warming, wars, excessive use of resources, pandemic are effects of not giving mother earth her proper respect.

In our traditions when the Babalawo IFA High Priest gives offerings directly to Ile Oguere. He is giving respect to mother earth, ancestors, and a series of deities that reside in the earth. The positive blessings from this ceremony gives people abundance, health, long life, protection from negative spirits and removes negative energy. Every August, Peruvians also feed the earth similar to our customs and beliefs. We do this once a year and always



when the consultation reveals that we must offer to the earth.

Earth has a planetary consciousness and by way of our traditional system of IFA, we have a dialogue with her. Ashe iboru iboya iboche Awo Orunmila Ofun Gando Ifa Oma

If interested in a consultation or energy reading of past, present and future you can send me a message on Facebook messenger: Luis Miguel Oluwo Ifaoma

Thank you Makeda Makossa and the WorldBeat Center for the opportunity to shed light on this tradition.

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The Practice of Tai Chi Chuan

by Mfundishi Mtakata Watangulizi

Tai chi chuan when practice properly is the best health investment any person can make. It strengthens all the organs, all the joints, the entire skeletal system and it increases endurance as well as breathing capacity. It's literally meditation in motion. It's all about attitude instead of athletics. One has to approach it with an open mind. Some people say they do tai chi, when after lots of practice you'll find that Tai chi "does you".

There are experiences that a person will have that are very personal and enlightening to each individual. It helps with balance, and it helps to enhance therapeutic exercises and recovery from accidents once a person is able to walk and move about freely from any afflictions that may have prevented them from doing so.

Look for your local tai chi chuan practice and experience the physical and spiritual benefits of the practice.

Check Out Our Jerk Shitake Mushroom Cheese Burger!

by Ronald Cheatom

Make sure you try our Jerk Shitake Mushroom Cheese Burger made with pretzel bun, miso mayo, red leaf lettuce, tomato slices, dill pickles, red onions, vegan cheddar cheese, and a juicy Field Roast burger patty made with wheat, barley, mushrooms, garlic, carrot and onions topped with shitake mushrooms smothered in our housemade Jamaican jerk sauce. These burgers are a meat eater's delight. Come enjoy this drip juicy burger served with sweet potato fries.

Here are a few of the potential benefits of shiitake mushrooms

1. Shiitake mushrooms naturally contain zinc, manganese, and several B-vitamins. They are a particularly excellent source of the mineral copper. These vitamins and minerals play a crucial role providing health benefits. Copper for example is vital for the immune system, supporting the creation and activity of various immune cells, including T cells, neutrophils, phagocytes, B-lymphocytes, natural killer cells, and antibodies
2. The beta-glucan (a type of soluble fiber) in shiitake mushrooms is useful for cholesterol reduction.

OneWorldBeat Cafe is located in Balboa Park at 2100 Park Blvd, San Diego 92101 and can be reached at 619-230-1190

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Four-Hundred And One Years After Slavery Began in America

By Bennis Blue, North Carolina Coordinator

“Because thou hast had a perpetual hatred, and has shed the blood of the children of Israel by the force of the sword in their time of calamity...” – Ezekiel 35:5

Eugenics, incarceration, involuntary commitment, murder of PTSD-afflicted Veterans of color all are methods of genocide of people of color, as are voter suppression and identity theft of the Africans bought to this land and enslaved. See the true story of The Amistad. The Africans on the Amistad were separated from like-speaking Africans and forced to have their cases heard by speakers of a language unknown to them. Fortunately, a future president heard the case and ruled in favor of returning those Africans to their homeland. Such tactics are being replicated on people of color today, for example immigrant detainees and even legal immigrants who have difficulty with the language of their newly granted citizenship.

Eugenics is a form of identity theft as it was practiced in the state of North Carolina. For those unfamiliar with the term, eugenics is forced sterilization of Blacks to “prevent breeding.” This practice is a form of systemic racism that

Mr. Robinson, an African American candidate for NC Lieutenant Governor (WRAL TV Debate Holley v. Robinson), cannot see because he has not apprised himself of this piece of NC history. Why did NC feel compelled to practice eugenics and to attempt to “block breeding of Blacks” in this state. The Africans’ identity and language have been stolen from them, and now their bodies and minds are being stolen from them. This smacks of the same method of “making the Indians vanish” via diseased blankets and being pushed around on their own lands to profit someone who scoffs at the impoverished people. I do note with some interest that Candidates Biden and Harris plan to meet with Native American Tribal leaders in Phoenix. My eighth grade English teacher (a Black woman) taught us, “A little learning is a dangerous thing. Drink deep, or taste not the Pierian Spring.” Looks like Mr. Robinson and many others who think racism is not systemic, should have a long and deep drink of reality.

Incarceration and suppression of the vote are at work in Florida and now one NC leader is working to prevent that in his jurisdiction. These are ways people of color are stripped of their rights as

American citizens. Incarcerated citizens are beat down and stripped of their human rights. Many are murdered in facilities that seek to “re-form” them, and many are military veterans and women of color. This is a form of systemic racism that affects the Voting Rights of people of color. The horrors of incarceration will be discussed in other updates such as a review of Barracks Behind Bars and other related researched scholarship. Of especial personal note is a series of letters to the writer from an incarcerated Native American.

Murder and involuntary commitment are closer to home and to me. The Baker Act allows people (and even crazy people, I was told by a medical professional) to invoke an involuntary seizure of a person for evaluation and psychological commitment of another citizen. This traumatic experience was applied to me with bruises, handcuffing, drugging and an unwarranted medical procedure in 2015. Although the behavioral specialist ruled the hostage-taking event not valid in my case in Virginia, a similar event led to the death of a Black male Veteran of color in Cumberland County, North Carolina. That Veteran, 37-year-old Adrian Jason Roberts gave his life in protecting his

home from uninvited law enforcement officers. He volunteered to serve the United States Army in a logistics unit, and was reported to suffer from PTSD. Again, this is a form of genocide and systemic racism in our state of North Carolina.

I am saddened to hear that Mr. Robinson, a Black male, refuses to acknowledge systemic racism in our state as he runs for the second highest government office in North Carolina. In the same year in which George Floyd was murdered by Minneapolis Police Officers, Mr. Robinson says in a recent debate: “Systemic racism is not the problem. We have far too many communities that are ruled [sic] by lawlessness. We need to take a good long look at that, stop putting the police under a microscope and start putting the criminals under a microscope.”

With a clearly unjust criminal justice system which disproportionately affects peoples of color a tougher on crime stance is not what is needed.

I prefer his opponent, Rep. Yvonne Lewis Holley’s stance: “We have other ways we can do things that are less restrictive and less bullying than going in all the time with a gun and the only resource is to arrest and physically restrain and harm people.” Seems like she is more familiar with the Prophet Ezekiel than is Mr. Robinson.

Joshua Hoe Speaks Out On Criminal Justice Reform ... *Indian Voices* Interview

What are you up to now and how did you get to be there? My name is Joshua B. Hoe. I’m a policy analyst at Safe and Just Michigan and the host of *Decarceration Nation* podcast. I am formally incarcerated and when I came back I had to struggle quite a bit to find employment and find a way to move forward in my life. I started doing activism on the side and it ended up being what I do for a living.

Generally speaking, why is the present system bad both for the incarcerated and for the communities of free people? The primary reason is because the systems aren’t designed to make people better. They’re not designed

to fix trauma. They’re not designed to train people for a better life when they return. They are not designed to do anything aside from punish and incapacitate. You take someone who’s already broken or is in a very bad place in their life, and you put them in an even worse place. If our goal is to make our communities safer we need to ensure that whatever system we invest in, that it’s a system that invests in returning people better than when they left.

Can you talk about some of the recent legal wins that you’ve been celebrating? It’s been a really good year for criminal justice reform in Michigan. I was part of a coalition that worked on the First Step

act at the federal level. I’m also part of a large coalition of people who worked on passing a very large package of Clean Slate legislation which is expungement, the ability to clear your public record. Michigan just passed the broadest expungement package in US history in many metrics, and the first state to include some felonies. We really expanded the amount of crimes that were eligible for expungement by petition. About a year before that we had a large coalition that passed Raise The Age legislation. I was part of a task force on jail and pretrial incarceration which is meant to address how Michigan’s crime rate was going down but incarceration continued to go up, at least at the jail level. The clean slate package was a huge victory because it’s headed to the governor’s desk. The rest of them are still in the process. And for a long time

Michigan followed the national guidelines that were preventing people who had drug offenses from getting snap benefits, food stamps, so it’s been a good couple of weeks. We probably had more movement on criminal justice reform in the last two weeks than we had in the previous two years.

Do you have a take on returning voting rights to formerly incarcerated people? Personally, I believe everybody should have a voice in their own governance. That’s one of the founding principles of this country. Luckily in Michigan formally incarcerated people can vote the minute they walk out of prison. And if you’re incarcerated but have not been sentenced yet you can vote. But everyone else is still disenfranchised who’s still incarcerated.

SEE *Criminal Justice Reform*, page 14



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California Secy. Of State Alex Padilla: Election 2020

“We’re going to implement masks, physical distancing and hand sanitizer to help keep in-person voting safe for election workers and voters alike,” says California Secretary of State Alex Padilla during a recent webinar held for journalists to make sure true and accurate facts get out to the voting public of California. Given the disinformation and misinformation concerning the election, the organizers of this webinar for journalists felt it was important to get the right information out directly from an official and trusted source.

Padilla says vote-by-mail will be the safest option for voting this year regarding Covid19 exposure. Every registered, active voter will be sent a mail-in-ballot package with return prepaid postage included. Voters also have the option of hand delivering their ballots at any county drop box or voting location during open in-person voting. Padilla addressed the integrity of the system of voting-by-mail in California. While stopping short of stating that ballots are as carefully produced as U.S. currency he does say vote-by-mail is trustworthy and that there are many measures taken to maintain the integrity of a mail-in voting system. The kind of paper, the watermarks and other distinguishing features on the ballots are controlled by each county and are designed to guard against fake ballots. The printers that produce the ballots are all domestic and certified by the Secretary of State’s office. The vote-by-mail envelopes, which must be used to return ballots, each have a unique bar code which enable tracking and make sure no person may vote more than once. The envelope must be signed on the outside and election workers will begin by comparing that signature to the voter’s signature on file. To further prevent anyone from voting twice the system will identify votes that may have been cast in another area in the state or

when a mail-in-ballot has been received if a voter also tries to vote in person. No second votes will be counted.

“Where’s My Ballot?” is the name of the state’s voting tracking tool. Voters may visit www.wheresmyballot.sos.ca.gov to track and know the status of their vote. Voters may sign up at this site to track the status of their ballot and receive email updates about their ballot. Over nine-hundred thousand voters have already signed up for the service.

Some previous voting locations such as assisted living facilities or residential garages will not be available due to Covid19 exposure risk. Instead, large, high-profile voting sites will be made available. One of those sites is the Golden 1 Center in Sacramento in partnership with the Sacramento Kings. The Kings will also provide support staff and volunteers to serve as poll workers. The Golden 1 Center will be available as a voting site from October 24 to November 3. The arena will be provided at no cost to the county and Downtown West Garage will provide free parking for voters. Additionally, Dodger Stadium and The Staples Center in Los Angeles, The Chase Center in San Francisco, and The Oakland Coliseum will also host voting at their facilities.

The deadline to register to vote is October 19, 2020. Same-day registration however is available at any of the voting sites open leading up to and including election day on November 3. Some locations, with prior arrangement, will provide curbside voting in which voters will not even have to leave their cars to cast their vote.

Overall, with much misinformation and disinformation floating around, Padilla says, “We encourage voters to follow the trusted voices in their communities. For official, reliable sources of information we encourage people to turn to their county elections office or the Secretary of State’s office.”

It is certain, in any case, that ignorance, allied with power, is the most ferocious enemy justice can have. – James Baldwin

Grid Alternatives is Helping Tribal Families Connect with Battery Storage

GRID Alternatives’ vision and mission has always been a successful transition to clean, renewable energy that includes everyone, especially our underserved communities. Most of our work in Tribal communities has been installing solar for Tribal families. Thanks to funds from the Equity Resiliency part of the Self-Generation Incentive Program, we are now working on battery storage solutions! The Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP) is a California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) rebate program that offers funding for energy storage in homes, including battery storage systems. Families can qualify based on having limited income, in addition to utilizing a private electric well pump or the Medical Baseline program through SDG&E. GRID is partnering with Swell Energy to install Tesla Powerwall battery backup for Tribal families in San Diego county. Battery backup provides safe and reliable energy during blackouts. This is especially useful

for families who rely on electricity for their medical devices. The Tesla Powerwall battery backup is paid for and installed at no cost to qualifying families.

GRID Alternatives is working with Tribal Liaisons to help Tribal families apply for this program through safe and remote outreach efforts. This is a valuable opportunity for our tribal families to benefit from as we continue to face heat waves and planned or unplanned Public Safety Power Shut offs. Funds are limited and time sensitive as we hope to enroll more families while rebates are available. GRID Alternatives appreciates all the work our Tribal partners have dedicated through our joint outreach efforts. We hope to enroll even more families as we close out the year.

If interested in applying for the battery storage program while funding is still available, go to gridsolar.org/swellbattery to start the process.

What created democracy was Thomas Paine and Shays’ Rebellion, the suffragists and the abolitionists and on down through the populists and the labor movement, including the Wobblies.

Tough, in your face people ... Mother Jones, Woody Guthrie ... Martin Luther King and Caesar Chavez. And now it’s down to us.
– Jim Hightower

REMEMBER TO VOTE!!!

Gwendolyn Parada
Chairwoman



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Voices of Democracy

Continued from page 2

fighting because at every corner there is an enemy, a lover of power, money, and greed waiting to take advantage of our complacency, because our complacency is the breeding ground for ignorance and silence and it is the foundation of dictatorship. We must never stop fighting for our democracy and we must guard our freedoms for the future generations at all costs. – **Aeiramique Glass-Blake, Executive Director, Generation Justice**

• As a refugee, democracy to me is like a breath of fresh air. As our bodies need oxygen for existence, human beings need democracy to live their life, be happy, succeed and improve the quality of their life. So, democracy is equal to oxygen, as far I am concerned. – **Walter Lam, Founder and President, Alliance for African Assistance**

• Democracy, like anything we cherish, must be cared for attentively. Together, we must strive for a “more perfect union.” Blessed as we are to live in a democracy, it is our right and our duty to be informed and vote. To vote is to have faith in a better tomorrow. – **Alana Wong Robinson**

• We fight for democracy for those who no longer have a voice. We fight for democracy to protect the rights of our children and most of all we fight for the inalienable rights to exist without the injustices of prejudices, hatred, and harm. Democracy in America can only exist when it's inclusive to all of its citizens. – **Anonymous**

• Well, as it becomes clearer that in the four hundredth and first year since our official arrival to America, that for African Americans a democracy has not only been a theory, but a fantasy, and so we dream. We argue and continue to work for this form of government to work on our behalf. It has been four hundred and one years. Will we tire or is democracy tired? I cannot really say without context. Or, to be more frank, I cannot say why from a democratic point of reference. My prediction is that within the next five years millennials and generation “Z”-ers will become mainly Republican. It will be about time. As part of (racial) reparative measures, a neutral party for forty-six million Blacks should be formed and paid for. That's my take. – **Cheryl Morrow, CEO of California Curl Beauty & editor of San Diego Monitor News**

• Democracy is but a fleeting promise in America! The continued fight for which people advocate for their own interest is generational. Freedom is having choice and

democracy is a mechanism, if done without corruption, that provides freedom of choice to the people. Otherwise democracy's proper purpose is denied. Freedom, choices and democracy come with great sacrifices because we are forced to fight every system to keep them. We are all accountable to each other and therefore should not stand for people being shut out of a democratic nation!

Tasha Williamson, Community Justice Advocate

• The reason we fight for democracy is because we owe it to those who worked so hard for us to participate in earlier generations. Those singing in the fields, singing in the churches, and singing in protest gatherings knew the value of full participation in democracy and sacrificed for it. We owe it to them to continue the fight. Whether we are on traditional Kumeyaay Lands, on a FOB (Forward Operating Base) in Afghanistan, or a city street let us do our part in hope of the day when the struggle to affirm our full identity is no longer a source of controversy. – **Nathan Byrd, Pastor, Christ United Presbyterian Church**

Nathan Byrd, Pastor, Christ United Presbyterian Church

• Democracy - the ideal concept that we all as a people have a say in how our society is run. Democracy is a governmental system that is a servant to the people. We all have a right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We have a right to assemble. We have a right to free speech. We have a right to keep striving for equality. Democracy is an ideal not yet come to fruition fully in our everyday reality. Which means that today, more than ever, we keep fighting to save the intentions set forth by our Constitution. Democracy does not die in the dark. Democracy dies in the full light of day. Every step we take on these First Nation confiscated lands and every injustice meted out to the American African - brought in chains by force - is a searing reminder of work that still needs to be done to bring true Democracy into the light of day. – **Suzanne Forbes-Vierling PhD.**

• The so-called United States was founded in genocide, built by enslaved people, and drenched in blood. The nascent democracy was not meant for everyone - this we know. But in the beginning there was a promise - a promise as yet unfulfilled. In the beginning, and throughout history, those denied the promise nevertheless could imagine its fulfillment in a more just, a more perfect, union. This promise is at the heart and soul of our democracy. Our imperfect democracy is worth fighting for because in so doing we are fighting for the soul of this nation. While there have always been those who would

thwart that promise, there have always been those who have fought for it - who have struggled and died for this promise. We are called to be faithful to their memories, faithful to the struggle and faithful to our deepest moral values - uplifting the worth and dignity of all people and justice, equity, and compassion. In fighting for our democracy, we call for an end to systemic racism; poverty; the war economy and the militarization of our communities and borders; ecological devastation and the distorted moral narrative of religious nationalism. In fighting for our democracy we are fulfilling the promise. – **Rev Dr Beth Johnson, Minister, Palomar Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Co-Chair of the California Poor People's Campaign**

• With the size and diversity of the United States the use of a representative democracy allows for those diverse voices to share their collective thoughts on the future direction of this country. The challenge is ensuring that all voices have equal access to their government and its leadership. In 2008 world leaders marveled that then candidate Barack Obama was meeting with average citizens in their communities asking for their vote. They could not comprehend that someone seeking such power and influence would put themselves in a position to beg average citizens for that power. Today, representative democracy appears fragile and suspect to a watching world. But the truth is Americans have been asking their leaders to end the influence of money in campaigns, allow voting to be easier and to support the interest of Main Street or Calle Main. There is no need to “take down the temple” of representative democracy, what is needed is reform and the addition of more diverse voices and cultures exercising their right to vote while gaining opportunity to wealth for themselves and their families! – **Ricardo Flores, Executive Director, LISC San Diego**

• Democracy is a system of government where the people have the supreme power to freely elect leaders to represent them and remove those elected leaders by voting in a peaceful manner. One person, one vote. A democracy gives every citizen the power to choose who they want to run the government and to effectuate a change in leadership when those elected officials fail to govern in a manner that is in the people's best interest. America is a democracy. In America the government is run by the people who decide who will represent them. That means that everyone in this country has the opportunity to vote for someone who will govern them as opposed to having a person selected without

any input from the people. We should fight for democracy in order to preserve our right to vote for our elected officials and on issues that may have a profound impact on our ability to enjoy life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. – **Randy K. Jones, Law Partner**

• Our Duty to Fight

We must fight for our democracy because it has been placed in our hands by God to safeguard. All government institutions were established by God, and must be just and fair. Through democracy we fight for what is just and fair. Democracy is a principle which is the fulfillment of a promise-the Declaration of Independence-“that every person is endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” When these rights are infringed upon we must fight. Democracy gives us the right as a people to speak out against injustice, fight against oppression, racism, and poverty. Democracy is the vehicle we use to fight for and safeguard our inalienable right for life, liberty, and happiness. We must fight, because democracy says, “defend me, it's in your hands.” – **Bishop Cornelius C. Bowser, Program Director, Shaphat Outreach**

People ask why we should fight for democracy. To me the answer is very simple. We must retain and improve on the gains that we made since the end of the Civil War. Fighting for democracy means rolling back voter suppression laws that have been enacted; e.g., voter ID laws, limitations on early voting and voting by mail. A healthy democracy means that the citizens have a clear say in the decisions their governments make. Governments at all levels make decisions that directly affect us. We must assure that our elected decision-makers act in our best interests. The only way we can do that is to participate in elections to make our voices heard. We also fight for democracy to honor the sacrifices of those who came before us like John Lewis, Medgar Evers, and countless others. I am old enough to remember the scenes of Bloody Sunday on the Edmund Pettus Bridge. The clearest and most visible expression of democracy is voting. Remember, there are those who would limit or take away your right to vote. Voting assures that you have a place at the decision-making table. In the words of a late politician, “if you're not at the table, you are on the menu.”

Brian Bonner, First VP, NAACP San Diego Branch

Compiled and edited by Clovis Honore
Indian Voices Social Justice Editor

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**ELIZABETH PEREZ
VISTA CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE
DISTRICT 2**

Elizabeth "Liz" Perez has been a resident of Vista since 2006. She is running for Vista City Council, District 2. After watching Vista's public safety decline and overall progress stagnate under current passive and non-responsive leadership, Liz decided run for City Council to better the community. With a strong vision and detailed plan that addresses public safety, economic growth, climate change, prioritizes infrastructure needs, and ensures city leadership takes a more active, responsive approach to community concerns such as homelessness and affordable housing, Liz is determined to move Vista forward.



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The work never stops. Every day each of us wakes up Indigenous and we show up for our people. Every day we have the chance to change a life and to inspire others in small or grand ways. We will always continue to make more room for our voices and honor Native philosophies. As we face the unknown challenges to come, let's face it together, as Native People.

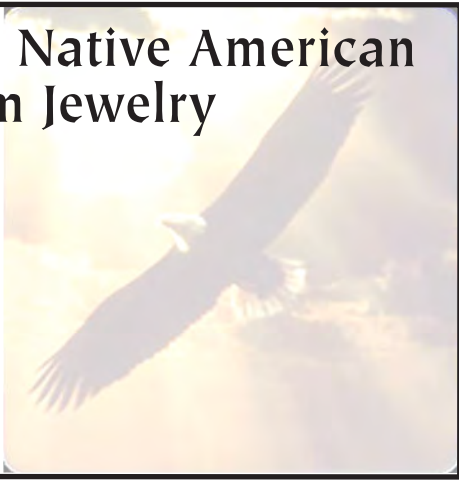
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Presidential General Election | November 3, 2020



You've Received Your Mail Ballot. What's Next?

The San Diego County Registrar of Voters is reminding you to vote safer at home. Over 1.8 million mail ballots have been sent to voters for the Nov. 3 Presidential General Election. Voters are encouraged to act early. When you decide how you want to vote, grab that mail ballot, mark your selections, and send it back right away! Then you can sit back, relax, and watch the Election Day results roll in. No driving to the poll. No waiting in a long line.

Here's what you need to do! VOTE

1. Do your research and review your Sample Ballot and Voter Information Pamphlet. If you lost yours, you can find it at sdvote.com.
2. Follow the instructions at the top of your ballot.
3. Fill in the oval next to your voting selection. Use black or blue ink only.

PREPARE YOUR BALLOT FOR MAILING

4. Detach the stub at the top of your ballot. You may keep or discard it.
5. Seal your voted ballot inside your postage-paid return envelope.

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6. Date and sign your own name on the back of your return envelope. Do not print.
7. **Your signature is required for your ballot to count.**
8. Sign your name just like it appears on your driver's license or identification card.

Now you can drop it in the mail. **Postage is paid!** It's that easy. You may also deposit your ballot at one of 124 mail ballot drop-off locations across the county. Visit sdvote.com for a list of locations near you. Wear your "I Voted" sticker proudly. That's right! Your "I Voted" sticker is in your mail ballot packet.

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Criminal Justice Reform

Continued from page 10

But the minute you walk out of prison, even if you're on parole and probation, in Michigan you can vote no matter what your crime was.

Can we touch on your position on sex offender registries? I oppose them for many of the same reasons we already talked about [disadvantages to the formerly incarcerated]. This one's a little more self-interested because I am on the registry. There's a vast amount of evidence that suggests that registries don't actually make communities safer. The biggest meta-analysis that's ever been done on the subject and was quoted all the way up to the Supreme Court concludes that registries actually make people more likely to recidivate. There's also a false sense of security because most research shows that over 90% of people who commit sex crimes are

first-time offenders, and over 85% of people who commit sex crimes are friends or family members, both of whom would not be stopped by registry. If you believe that you're effectively containing the amount of people that are a danger to you and your family, we know that's probably not true based on the data. Registries keep getting bigger and bigger. It makes it harder to know who the actual people are who we are at most at risk from. There's a lot of reasons why registries functionally don't help to make communities safer.

What do you think is a better approach? There are important things like teaching people more about consent, and other things that that would help. But we put our money into something that the research, for decades, has shown doesn't work.

Can you talk about some of the initiatives that have been pushed forward as bipartisan efforts? I like to

say that criminal justice reform is not partisan and the reason it's not partisan is because so many people on both sides of the aisle have been impacted directly or had family members and friends impacted indirectly and once you come into contact with the system and you start to see the differences between the romantic notions of the judicial system in our heads [on tv and film], and what actually happens in reality, you start having a pretty serious cognitive dissonance. It makes you want to move against those excesses in the system. We see a lot of people on both sides of the aisle really committed to the idea of making the system work.

What do you think a Biden, Harris administration would bring to these issues that might be different from the present administration? I was actually quite enthused after the First Step act and that the Trump administration would continue to be pro criminal justice

reform. I think my big frustration set in when the [re-election] campaign started in earnest, and turned to a tough on crime stance, including multiple times asking for long sentences for minor crimes, reinstating the federal death penalty. They have already killed seven people within less than six months, which is more people than have been killed at the federal level in over 50 years. So a lot of what I thought was going to be very positive, to my mind, has turned the opposite direction. I feel with Biden and Harris there's at least a good possibility that they'll be on the right side of these issues. Every politician has been told if you're not tough on crime it'll cost you an election, and you know we're seeing that change slowly overtime. The main reason there has been success is because so many people have been impacted on both sides of the aisle and we can really move together in a lot of ways that weren't possible before.

Outstanding Indians

"An enrolled Rosebud Sioux Tribe member, **Wizipan Little Elk** is a nationally recognized young Native leader. Wizipan first met Barb and OJ Semans during South Dakota's 2004 U.S. Senate race, when Four Directions helped deliver record-breaking levels of Native voter turnout."



Chef Tawnya

Brant was raised and currently resides on the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory, located in southern Ontario. She is a Kanyen'kehá:ka (Mohawk) woman and Tekarihoken Turtle clan. She is an internationally acclaimed chef recently opening her own restaurant, "Yawékon" by Brant in the village of Ohswé:ken, at the prime retail location of the Iroquois Village Plaza.



Elizabeth "Beth" Castle, Ph.D.

Castle is a committed anti-racist ally and descended from the Pekowi band of the Shawnee in Ohio - both shape how she engages with community-based

scholarship and organizing. Dr. Castle brings almost 20 years of experience as a scholar, activist, and media maker working in collaboration with Native Nations and underrepresented communities. Her film, Warrior Women, is based on the research done for her book "Women were the Backbone, Men were the Jawbone: Native Women's Activism in the Red Power Movement."



"Rowen White is a Seed Keeper/farmer from the Mohawk community of Akwesasne and a passionate activist for indigenous seed and food sovereignty. She is the Educational Director and lead

mentor of Sierra Seeds, an innovative land-based educational organization located in Nevada City, CA. Rowen is the National Program Coordinator for the Indigenous Seed Keeper Network, which is an initiative of the Native American Food Sovereignty Alliance, a non-profit organization aimed at leveraging resources to support tribal food sovereignty projects. She is the chair of the Board of Directors of Seed Savers Exchange, the largest public access seed bank in North America."

Phone Banking and Canvassing Turn Out the Native Vote Nationwide while Creating High-Tech Jobs at Standing Rock

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe has partnered with the Lakota People's Law Project to get out the vote in Indian Country. They have hired canvassers to

go door to door on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation to make sure members obtain and submit mail-in ballots, and they're running a high-tech phone bank

to get out the vote both at home and in swing states with large Native populations, like North Carolina and Arizona.

I want to see young people in America feel the spirit of the 1960s and find a way to get in the way. To find a way to get in trouble. Good trouble, necessary trouble. – John Lewis

FIND THE RAINBOW

by Kenneth G. White Jr.

Too often we forget to thank our family
For their love, support and strength
We are so fortunate to have good health
and happiness
We spend time searching for something
When all along that something is
right in front of us
Our family, our loved ones
Our Indigenous identity and God Almighty
Cherish these special moments
And embrace the vibrant wonderful life

God has given you
Take time for family
When you think you have no time at all
Watch your children grow
Smell the freshness of the crisp morning air
Find the rainbow after the storm
Prayer, love and faith are bountiful
and abundant
For all who believe
Realize yourself
Yes, you can
Look around you and share your gifts and love
With your Mother, Father, Sisters and Brothers
Through a kind gesture, a warm hug,
and a gentle smile

Connect your souls to pick each other up
when you are down
Stand up for each other
Solid, strong, and unwavering
Like the biggest oak tree in the forest
Like an eagle soaring in the sky
Like that special person's love
Unending, unconditional
And infinite in its warmth and compassion
God bless you
For kindly enriching our lives
And thank you for your gentle love
and strength
Always remember
Find the rainbow after the storm



Amy Rose Foll
Owner, Virginia
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Virginia Free Farm
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Amy Rose's strong background in healthcare and her native heritage (Penobscot/Abenaki) is what prompted her to begin advocating for food sovereignty, security, and preservation of indigenous food culture through seed saving & distribution.

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Celebrating Native American Heritage Month by Supporting Native Art

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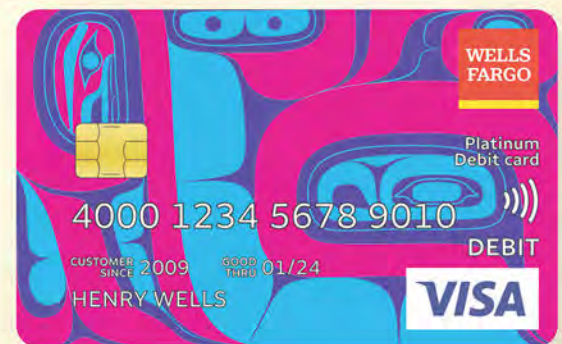
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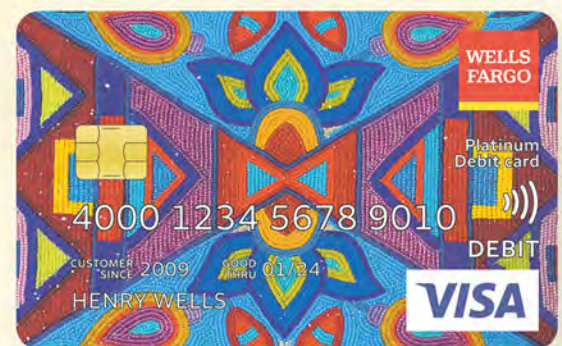
Steph Littlebird Fogel, Grand Ronde Confederation



Fox Spears, Karuk



Crystal Worl, Tlingit



Elias Jade Not Afraid, Crow



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RIGHT NOW WE ARE TOO YOUNG TO VOTE SO WE ARE COUNTING ON YOU TO VOTE FOR OUR FUTURE!



BAPAC STRONGLY URGES YOU TO VOTE AS EARLY AS YOU CAN!



Native American Food Sovereignty Alliance

About NAFSA

We are an organization dedicated to restoring the food systems that support Indigenous self-determination, wellness, cultures, values, communities, economies, languages, and families while rebuilding relationships with the land, water, plants, and animals that sustain us.

Through our efforts and programs, we bring stakeholders and communities together to advocate and support best practices and policies that enhance dynamic Native food systems, sustainable economic development, education, trade routes, stewardship, and multi-generational empowerment.

We work to put the farmers, wild-crafters, fishers, hunters, ranchers, and eaters at the center of decision-making on policies, strategies and natural resource management.

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